

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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Commission to probe Pinnacle

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Re-making Romulus to fit into the overall "Airport City" concept has taken longer than most expected.

That's why the Wayne County Commission is forming a committee to investigate why the Pinnacle Project – a proposed 1,200-acre mixed-use development involving three governmental entities – is taking so long to become a reality.

Wayne County Commissioner Ed Boike (District 15 – Taylor) said that the project moving ahead is of utmost importance to the over-

all health of the county because the creation of thousands of new jobs is on the line.

"We want to see this move forward, and we're looking for facts," he said. "This is something that will help residents going forward. It seems like the perfect place to develop – it's close to the airport, it has freeway access – it's perplexing as to why it's taking so long to get off the ground."

Currently, the county is grappling with the highest level of unemployment in the state, which is in part driving the inquiry, Boike said.

The late Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara first introduced Pinnacle project in 1998. The concept of developing a city with-

in a city to surround the airport into an entertainment and business Mecca has worked well in other parts of the county. The county – not to mention the City of Romulus and Huron Township – are hoping the project materializes and generates big revenues.

But anything that involves three municipalities and the amount of work proposed at the Pinnacle site is bound to be ripe for delays, Boike said.

"I have a feeling that all of the parties might not be on the same page," he said. "But that's one of the things we're hoping to find out as

See **Pinnacle**, page 3

2 arrested in school bomb threat

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Two teenagers are in custody for calling in a bomb threat at Romulus High School last week.

Tiffany Arnez Jones, a 19-year-old student at Inkster High School, and a 14-year-old from Romulus Middle School were charged at the 34th District Court with making a bomb threat, which is a four-year felony.

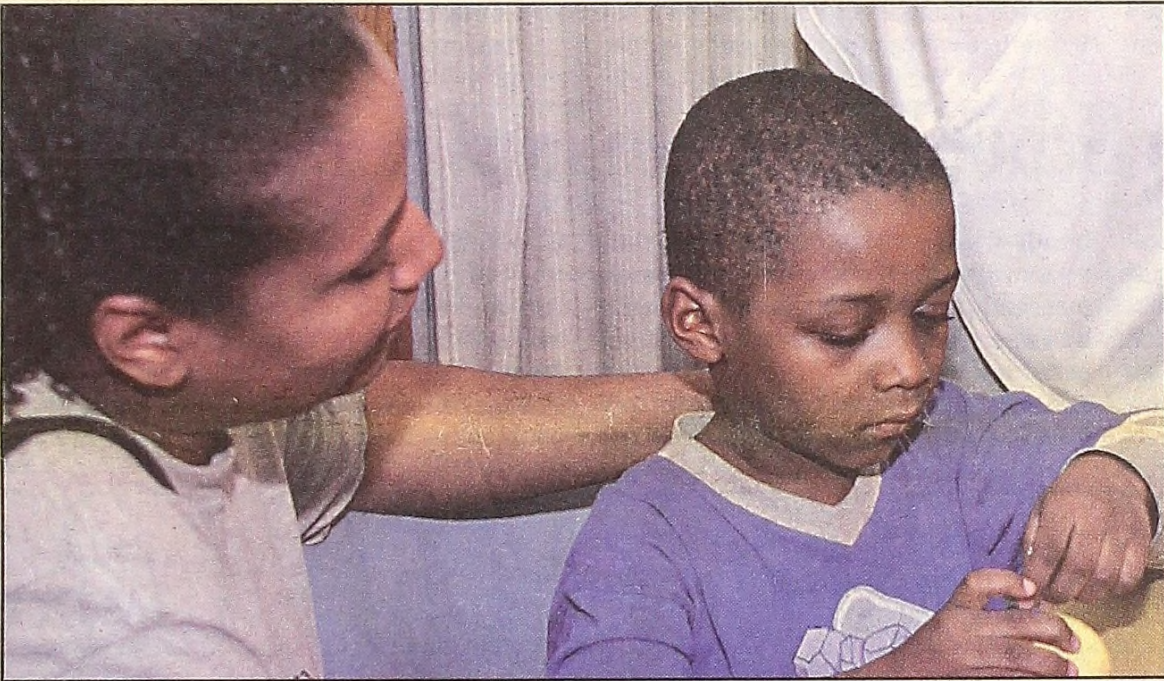
School officials said the bomb threat was called in during the early morning hours of April 7 on the school attendance voice-mail. It was not discovered until later in the afternoon, and police were immediately dispatched to the school, said Det. Lt. John Leacher.

"We were able to find the persons we believe are responsible for the calls when a student at (Romulus Middle School) said another student told them they were going make the threat," he said. "That led to the arrests in this case."

Romulus detectives were able to interview the students shortly after they learned of the calls. Both confessed, according to school officials. Police – and school administrators and central office workers – conducted sweeps of the high school and nearby Wick Elementary while students were outside, and did not locate an explosive device of any kind, Leacher said.

The threats are the latest in a series that have resulted in evacuations at three area high schools in the past month. Inkster High School – where

See **Threat**, page 3



Egg-cellent!

Easter celebrations abounded during the weeks prior to the April 15 holiday, especially at the Romulus Public Library, which hosted several events. The last Easter-related craft session was April 8 when an egg-decorating class took place. Participants of all ages learned how to hand paint eggs using stencils and original designs. Ramona Underwood and her son, Bobby (above) joined Peggy Lancaster and her grandson, Carson Selwa, who enjoyed learning the specifics.



New vehicle takes police to scenes

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The explosion at EQ Resource Recovery in Romulus last August was virtually unprecedented for the city.

Extinguishing the blaze – and executing a plan that involved multiple law enforcement and emergency entities – was difficult with the scope of the incident and the number of people who had to

be evacuated from the immediate area, according to public safety officials.

It might have been easier for Romulus personnel if they had a mobile command center to serve as a hub of activity for city officials and emergency workers, but the fire department had to borrow one from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department for the duration of the three-day-long effort.

Romulus emergency personnel

won't have cross their fingers and hope a command center is available from another agency any more, though – they took delivery of a 32-foot mobile command vehicle last week. A \$285,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security helped pay for it, said Deputy Fire Chief and Emergency Manager Philip Wagner.

See **Vehicle**, page 3

Civic group donates \$15,000 to library

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Van Buren Civic Fund has donated \$15,000 to the Fred C. Fischer Library.

The contribution funded five new public Internet computers, six new children's computers and new computer tables and chairs. Members of the group were presented a plaque from the library last week to commemorate the project.

Mary Jo Suchy, assistant director of the library, said the computers provide valuable access to residents, which helps to meet the ever-increasing demand for the popular computer service. The library Internet stations are widely used for many purposes including email access, job searches, consumer affairs, government information and homework assistance, all free to the public.

"This was very important because even with these new computers we still have a waiting list so the demand is there," she said.

In addition, the children's computers provide filtered Internet access, as well as educational software to younger patrons.

"It fits with our goals when we came up with our long-range strategic plan last sum-

mer for the library," said Suchy. "This was part of it: to meet the technology needs of the users. We're very grateful for this donation."

The Fred C. Fischer Library Internet use statistics have seen double digit increases for the past five years. Now with the recent contribution, the library computer service has been increased by 50 percent, Suchy said.

The Van Buren Civic Fund was created in 2004 by township officials and Visteon Corp. The not-for-profit organization generates money to support projects and services in Van Buren Township with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for residents through educational, cultural, social and economic improvements in the community.

"This library donation meets our mission," said Cindy King, a director on the civic fund board. "We try to fund a variety of things."

The Van Buren Civic Fund board of directors includes: president Beverly Jenkins, secretary Bob Thorne, treasurer Ann Porster, Father John Hagan, Gary Mayo, Scott Jones and King.

Other contributions include: the flashing speed limit sign at Tyler Elementary School, a new sound system at the



Members of the Van Buren Civic Fund were presented a plaque from the Fred C. Fischer Library last week to commemorate a \$15,000 donation made by the group to the library that funded five new public Internet computers, six new children's computers and new computer tables and chairs.

Belleville Area Museum, a motor engine for the police marine boat and new Americans with Disabilities Act equipment to be installed at Van Buren Park.

For more information or to donate to the

civic fund, call (734) 699-8910. Donations can also be made to: Van Buren Civic Fund, 501 (c3), P.O. Box 904, Belleville, MI, 48112.

"Every penny gets used in and for the community," said King.

Belleville High School bands to host several upcoming events

The Belleville High School bands will host several concerts, events and fundraisers in May.

The spring concerts will take place at 7:30 p.m. on May 9 and 11 at Belleville High School. The jazz band will perform on May 9, while the freshman band and symphony

bands will perform on May 11. Other upcoming performances include commencement on May 25, the POPS concert on June 1 and the Strawberry Festival parade on June 17.

The group will also host a 'Flower Day' from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 21 at Robson's

Greenhouse, located at 9015 Haggerty Road in Belleville. A percentage of sales will be donated to the bands. A drawing will also take place at 4 p.m. during the event.

The Belleville bands are also seeking chaperones for the band camp that will

take place on Aug. 21-26 at Camp Tamarack in Ortonville. The band needs adults who can commit the entire week. To volunteer, contact Sandy Tinsley at (734) 699-0722.

For more information or other event dates, check the school bands website at students.resa.net/bhsbands/index.htm.

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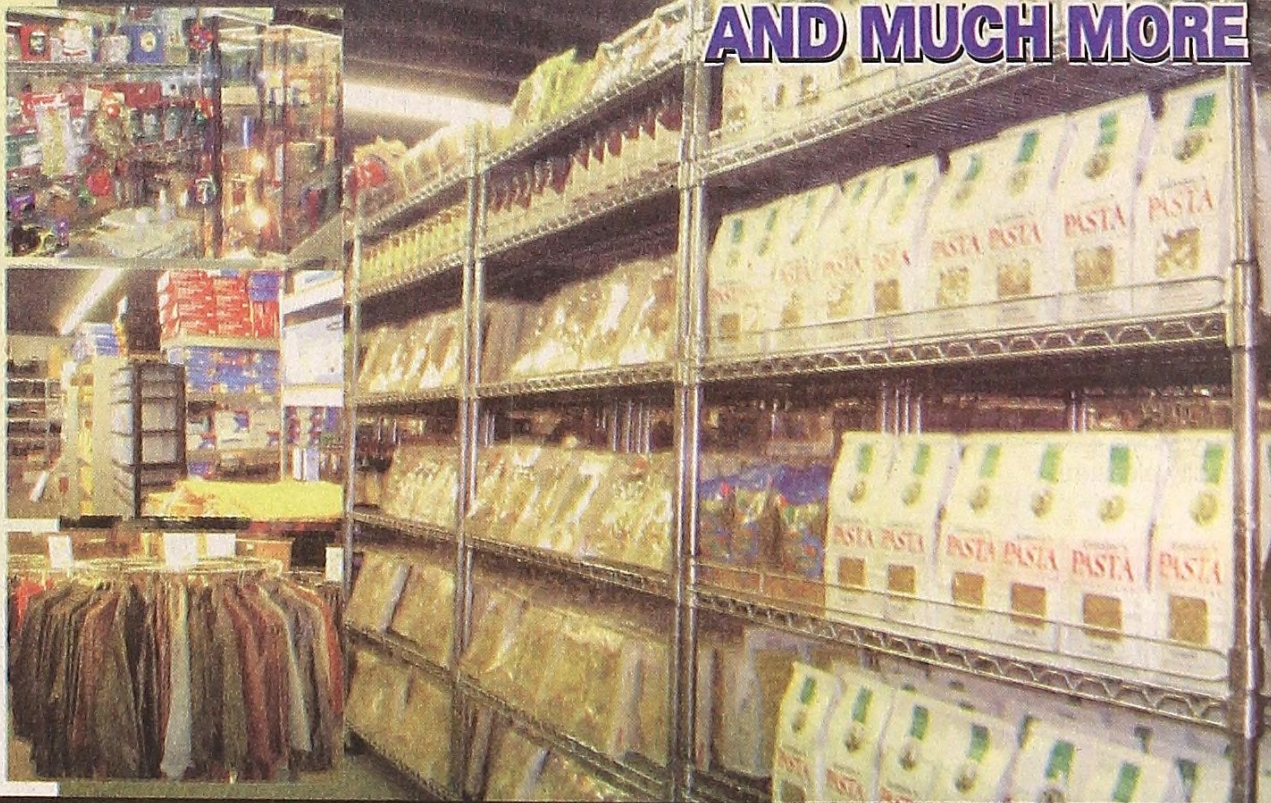
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Parental involvement is benchmark of candidate's platform

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Diane Funderburg is focusing her campaign for one of two open school board seats on improving both parental involvement and academic standards in the 4,300-student district.

Funderburg, 40, is a familiar face around Wick Elementary School, where she is a parental volunteer coordinator. She has two children, 7 and 9 years old, who attend the school, and said staff members and other parent volunteers have encouraged her to seek the office.

"As a parent coordinator, we facilitate a number of different activities at the school and at home," she said. "We prepare paperwork, help students – it's a great way to learn about the

schools and what teachers and students face. It provides a good link. But as a school board member, I know I could have a broader impact on all students."

Because of her volunteerism, Funderburg said she could draw a direct line from the decisions made in Lansing to the classroom, where the effect can be negative.

"The school board needs to be more pro-active in Lansing, because the funding cuts are having a bigger effect than most people realize," she said. "We have had about 366 students at Wick last year and 355 this year – about the same number. But we lost two teachers – we now have one first-grade class and it has 33 kids in it."

There was an entire shuffle the school had to do with its

teachers," Funderburg said. "I'm not our representatives understand what's going on at a local level."

Another thing that needs attention is technology integration, Funderburg said.

"The school board has positioned the district as state-of-the-art, and we have some great computers at the schools," she said. "The equipment itself is not outdated, but we need to find ways to update the software. The computers are used over and over again, and some repairs are often needed. But the biggest thing is they keep up with the changes in software so the children are learning on the latest software."

The schools also need to do better preparing students for college, academically and financial-

ly, Funderburg said.

"Getting kids into college would be something that I'd put into better focus," she said. "One of the things we have that really gets kids scholarships is our athletic program, but we need to find other ways of improving academic achievement so students (that are not involved in athletics) can get college scholarships as well."

A full-time homemaker when she's not working at Wick, Funderburg graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications and advertising from Oakland University in Rochester Hills. She worked as a graphic designer for several years before taking a position as the community relations director for the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills.



Diane Funderburg

This is the first time Funderburg has sought public office in Romulus. She faces two incumbents and two challengers for a seat on the school board. The election is May 2.

News in brief

Academy schedules informational meeting

Metro Academy in Romulus, a kindergarten through fifth-grade, has scheduled a parent information meeting at 6:30 tonight.

Principal Andrew Cook will be on hand to answer questions from parents interested in sending their child to school. Teachers and other staffers will be on hand.

Metro Academy is a public charter school that serves 600 area students. The school is located at 34800 Ecorse Road in Romulus.

For more information, call the school at (734) 641-9200.

YWCA sells cards to fund programs

The YWCA of Western Wayne County will sell Mother's Day cards to help finance initiatives that help women and families take control of their lives.

The cards are available for \$25 donation, said Karen Murphy, the chief executive officer of the YWCA.

The YWCA is a 50-year-old non-profit organization that has created various social services and community programs that help women. These programs include education services, Head Start, crisis intervention for victims of domestic violence, exercise classes and recreation.

About 1,000 families each year avail themselves of services offered though the YWCA Inkster office.

To purchase the cards or make a donation to the YWCA, call (313) 561-4110 ext. 20.

Wayne County extends tax deadline

County residents that could not pay their 2003 taxes by the March 31 deadline are getting a reprieve from the county treasurer, who extended the tax payment deadline to April 27.

Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz said that despite the fact his staff processed 22,000 payments and collected \$36 million in delinquent taxes in the final days before the March 31 deadline, there are still too many outstanding bills that need to be paid.

If residents still feel they will not be able to pay the full amount they owe on their primary residence by April 27, the county will still accept applications or a hardship exception. This year, 1,200 hardship applications from residents were received, nearly four times the number from last year.

Taxpayers who would like to request hardship status should call the Wayne County Corporation Counsel's office at (313) 224-6105.

Threat

FROM PAGE 1

Jones is a student – received a threat two weeks ago that forced administrators to evacuate school and close for the remainder of the day.

Nonetheless, Superintendent Joel Carr said that the district must take threats seriously.

"We want the citizens of Romulus to know that we will take strong measures against anyone who vandalizes or makes

malicious phone calls or e-mails that threaten school facilities and individuals," he said.

The school board is also offering a \$100 reward to anyone that can provide information that leads to a conviction in this case, school officials said.

The name of the 14-year-old girl charged in connection with the threats is being withheld by police because of her age. Her case will be adjudicated at the Wayne County Juvenile Court in Detroit. If convicted, she could be placed in a juvenile facility until she is 19 years old.

Pinnacle

FROM PAGE 1

our investigation continues."

Tim Keyes, the economic development director for Romulus, said he believes all of the parties have cooperated with each other and the county. He also said the process of making Pinnacle a reality is more complex than anyone initially imagined.

"There's a lot that goes into this," he said. "There was a long acquisition process involved with the project. We've worked well with the county and with everyone else involved. I don't think that the fact that the commission

is looking into this is adversarial; that's not something we've noticed. But we welcome the commission's inquiry."

Dr. Mulugetta Birru, county director of jobs and economic development, called the commission's concerns "legitimate," but said the project delay boils down to three things: money, time, and infrastructure.

"I briefed them about a month and a half ago about this," he said. "I can certainly understand why they are concerned. But when I came here, we had absolutely no resources to make this work. The county spent \$38 million for acquisition and demolition of properties, and we've had to identify other funding sources."

"It's important to note that new

roads, new plans are being put into place," he said.

Birru added that some funding has surfaced from federal and state resources. "We were able to obtain about \$400,000 from internal resources, and grant funding has covered some expenses, like creating a master plan for roads," he said.

The county expects to break ground on the first 150 acres this year. For Romulus, the expansion of the project could be a boon – if it happens.

"We're really hoping to see some progress," he said. "We're hoping to see a shovel in the ground soon."

Birru said he's confident he will be able to show that the project is indeed moving forward.

Vehicle

FROM PAGE 1

"We looked at purchasing a mobile command post before," he said. "We had something similar at one time, but it was a converted van or something like that – it was not even close to what we have now."

The 32-foot converted recreation vehicle is equipped with everything a department would need in an emergency: a high powered laptop computer is on board so workers can access records and information, closets are filled with fire extinguishers, evidence bags, protective clothing, and other items needed at scenes that take a long time to process.

The vehicle serves a number of purposes beyond being a physical point of contact for emergency personnel, Wagner said.

"The important thing about these vehicles is that all of the calls that would come in to the 911 center related to whatever incident were trying to deal with would come here," he said. "It's a straight point of contact – you don't want your 911 center getting overwhelmed because of one incident, and it saves a lot of time if the calls just come to us at the scene."



The Romulus Police Department took delivery of a 32-foot mobile command center recently.

Romulus Police Det. Lt. John Leacher said the command centers will give officers – some of whom spend hours at a crime scene – a little breather, too.

"It's a good way to rest officers when you need to," he said. "Sometimes, they're out there for long periods of time in inclement weather. This is good for a police investigation, a fire – whatever it is that needs our attention."

One of the aspects of Romulus that sets it apart from neighboring communities is that it is home to the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, and several heavy industrial facilities that store chemicals. Though the EQ incident was the first major accident since a Northwest Aircraft crashed at the airport in 1987.

"I think we're unique in that

we have 14 facilities that are classified heavy industrial in the city, and most of our neighbors don't have one," Wagner said. "I don't think we could afford to wait (to buy a command vehicle) much longer."

Administrators specifically asked for the grant dollars for the vehicle last year, and Homeland Security officials agreed to finance the full cost of the purchase in part because of the industrial facilities and the airport, Wagner said.

The command center will also be rolled out for public events like the Pumpkin Festival, where there may be the need to provide services to large numbers of people.

"I think we'll be using it about three or four times a month," said Wagner.

OPINION

Don't fire the Senate,
just cut back hours

In an age when reducing the size of government is an increasingly popular topic, a group has formed to rid the State of Michigan of the Michigan Senate.

Calling itself 'Fire the Senate,' the group is circulating petitions to place a proposal for a unicameral government, effectively eliminating the senate and making the House of Representatives the lone legislative branch of state government.

It sounds like a good idea, and we are in favor of keeping the size—and cost—of government as small as possible, but we don't think this is a practical idea.

This is not, however, because we think that the Senate is currently overworked or that every hour on the clock is spent in pursuit of the overall well-being of the State of Michigan. We just don't think it's a good idea to arbitrarily eradicate a whole branch of the government—or at least half of it.

There's only one state in the union with a unicameral government, and that's Nebraska. Even given its current economic woes, the State of Michigan isn't in the same category as that Midwestern state. There's enough going on here that both a Senate and a House of Representatives are necessary—particularly when you consider the desire for legislators to be proactive rather than reactive.

It might make more sense to investigate a part-time legislature, rather than a full-time or unicameral one, too. While politicians might vigorously protest the concept that they are not very busy year round, is there any other line of work that requires so little office time, on average?

So while the overall proposition doesn't make much sense, it might still be a good idea to sign the petition, should it come circulating in your neighborhood. It might send a strong message to both sides of the capital—that we, the people are tired of bipartisan bickering, legislation written and voted on merely to provide something for legislators to do, and the endless political speak on the most mind-numbing of topics. Send them a message to get to work or get out of office.

What do you think? Send your 'signed' opinions or suggestions to editor@journalgroup.com or mail them to Journal Newspapers, 35540 W. Michigan Ave. Wayne, MI 48184.

Vote for parks will help city

For the second time in less than a year, officials in the City of Inkster will ask residents for a tax increase.

This time, they're asking for a dedicated millage to fund the parks and recreation and senior services departments, rather than an overall increase to bolster the general fund.

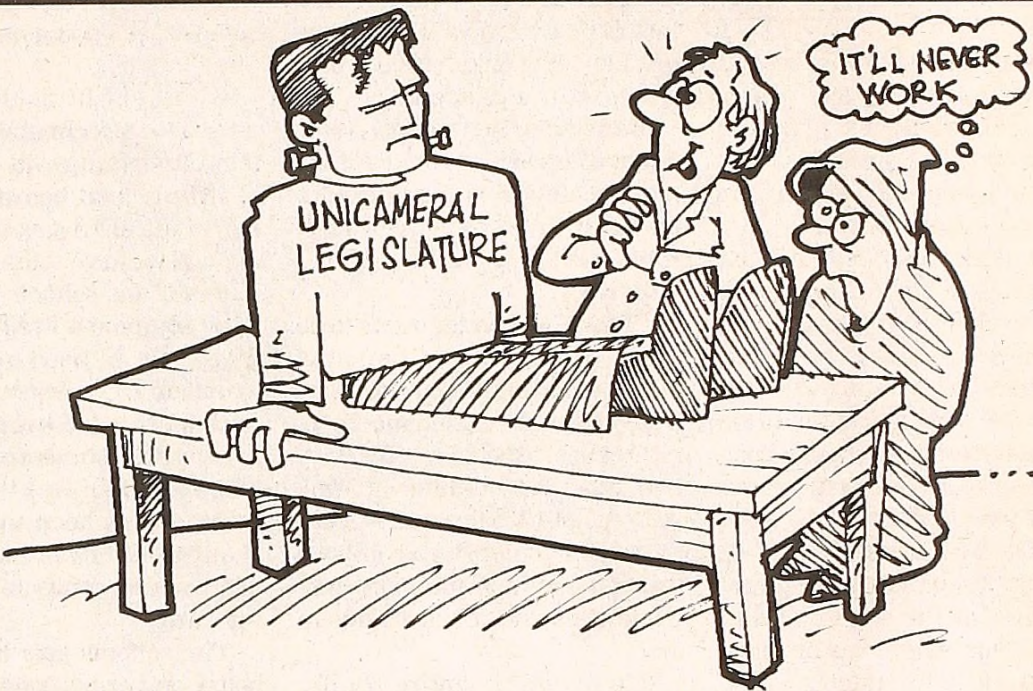
The proposed levy of 2.0 mills would be in effect for 10 years, beginning this year and with a sunset in the year 2016.

It sounds like a good deal to us. Residents should vote yes on May 2.

There's a lot to like about this proposed new millage. It would not only help keep service levels at current levels and ensure the long-term viability of many popular events and programs, but it would help enhance those services to residents.

It would provide a dedicated funding stream for these quality of life issues, too, and that's important during an age when municipalities across the street are forced to be as conservative as possible with their

See **Vote**, page 5



"YES, IGOR, OUR NEW CREATION
WILL BE WONDERFULL!!"

Stop, drop and run for your life

I used to think that activities like organized Tball, junior soccer or Little League were the foundation of all competition.

Now I know better.

It's not any of those things. No, competition starts at a much younger age. It starts at the Marshmallow Drop.

Call it parental pride, survival of the fittest, the pursuit of life, liberty and sugared sponges—whatever, but I witnessed it first hand on Friday.

Like many other parents, I hurried toward the Anderson Baseball Fields in the City of Wayne on Friday morning. Shouldering my way past other slow moving residents, I didn't have my son, Henry in tow—my wife, Lisa, had wisely taken him to the park earlier—but a camera that bounced against my hip as I ran.

The crowd was bigger than I remembered it from previous years. People stood shoulder to shoulder waiting—or sometimes not waiting—to barge their way into the fields and take up positions near the front of the pack.

Good lord, I thought, who are all these people?

I'm not suggesting that residents of other communities came to try their hand at the marshmallows and the free treats they could turn them in for, but I bet the Southeastern Council of Governments (SEM-COG) would have updated the community profile for the city, had any representative been on hand to see this crowd. It reminded me of my old hometown of Eugene, OR, where the population tripled whenever the Grateful Dead came to Autzen Stadium on tour; only it didn't smell as bad.

City parks and recreation staffers stood various intervals in the field, bellowing instructions with bullhorns—it was the only way they could be heard above the din.

"Stay back," they yelled. "Stay clear of the field until the helicopter flies overhead."

Images of a Dutch boy with his finger in a dam flickered through my mind.

Then, above all the other noise, came the sound of the helicopter gearing up for takeoff. The crowd

See **Drop**, page 6

Optimists should take another look

If anyone out there doesn't believe things are getting worse when it comes to the economy in Michigan and in the United States, I'd suggest they take another look.

Much has been made of the need to roll back the state Single Business Tax (SBT), which has been called a job-killer here in the Wolverine State. The tax – which is levied on businesses – brought in about \$2.2 billion (that's with a B) in 2002 to support all of the services we hold dear.

Members of both parties want to do away with the tax earlier rather than later, and the question of repealing the tax, will likely be on the November ballot this year. It will probably be approved because there are many in Michigan desperately seeking solutions to the jobs glut.

Of course, no one – from Gov. Jennifer Granholm to her likely opponent, Amway scion Dick DeVos – has proposed a clear plan as to how the state is going to make up for the billions in losses, but let's set that aside for the moment.

Two recent polls of business people in the state commissioned by another Detroit media outlet showed that, despite the hype of scratching the SBT, most businesses don't see the tax as something that is putting a dent in their businesses, like the rising cost of healthcare coverage.

Lansing pollster Ed Sarpolous of EPIC/MRA found that 71 percent of businesses surveyed said they would like to see the tax repealed, but they also said repealing it might not help them much.

This raises some complex questions. If repealing

the tax isn't going to help the businesses, will they be able to hire anyone to create jobs? If it does save the businesses money, but they're getting employees to do more for less, will they add to their staffs or pocket the money?

Also, how is the state going to make up the money? The poll indicates many businesses and residents would support expanding sales tax to include services or taxing corporate profits.

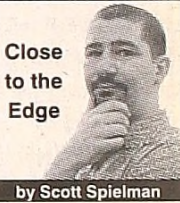
But the bottom line is this: Any changes that would occur as a result of repealing this tax could mean that the person holding this newspaper would, in one way or another, foot the bill. And if rolling back the SBT doesn't bring the kind of results people are expecting, it won't be easy to fix.

To listen to people out in the community and to local and state officials, getting rid of the SBT will bring jobs galore back to the state. There's no doubt we'd all like to see that happen, but right now it's too difficult to tell if this measure will bring prosperity to the people or just to the businesses – and the two aren't always mutually exclusive, as too many residents are already painfully aware.

We need to start asking some tough questions, folks, before Election Day, not after.

Speaking of tough questions: Last week, I had the honor and privilege to speak at the Inkster High School Career Day event. I joined many area profes-

See **Economy**, page 5



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman



Sad but True

by Molly Tippen

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Drop

FROM PAGE 4

surged forward even before it cleared the small hillock and made the short journey over the field.

Directly overhead, someone emptied the huge sack of white treats. Before they bounced comically on the grass, dozens of children ran forward to snatch them up.

And, just like there are 'baseball dads' or 'soccer moms,' so, too are there 'mallow parents,' as I soon characterized them. I saw many pounce toward the ground, snatching up a marshmallow to give it to his or her youngster, rather than let it fall victim to some less suitable child. One parent held one up above her head

”
*So maybe some people got carried away.
It's human nature, I suppose. It's still a popular event
and fun to watch, too. And why not?*
Scott Spielman

like Arthur wielding Excalibur. Another directed his daughter to pick up more, even though her basket overflowed and she had so many marshmallows in her arms it looked like she cradled a lamb.

Others took only a few and left to turn them in. Henry tried to give away his extras, but don't let that fool you. He's a student of Karma. He knew the Easter Bunny was on his way and figured that word of his kindness would get out and he'd get a few more trains stuffed in with his peeps and caramel eggs. He even tried

to give me one, but it was covered in dirt and I turned him down. It was all over in about a minute and people were already jostling to line up for the next drop.

I made my way back to my car, lucky to have caught any images on the camera that weren't blurry with action.

So maybe some people got carried away. It's human nature, I suppose. It's still a popular event and fun to watch, too. And why not? It was all good fun, controlled chaos, and nobody left empty handed.

Vote

FROM PAGE 4

general funds. Often, when budget cuts are necessary, it's to the less essential services city leaders look—things that don't impact the basic tasks of protecting the public.

Let's break it down a little. The ballot proposal gives the city the authority to levy up to 2.0 mills. It doesn't say that they automatically will. If they do require the full levy, it would cost an average homeowner about \$53 in taxes every year. Seniors may not have to pay it. Eligible homeowners may be able to get reimbursed through State Property Tax Credits, too.

That \$53 would help resort full program operations and staffing for senior and youth programs,

ensuring that the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center would be open seven days a week. It would allow the city to re-open the swimming pool and associated programs, pay for special events like the popular fishing derby, Inkster Summerfest, Christmas tree lighting and more. It would provide for the continuation of the Meals on Wheels program—which only took place this year when the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) students volunteered to take it on.

It would pay for extended medical transportation for seniors, teen peer study sessions, and additional senior programs, too.

In short, it's a pretty long list for a relatively small amount of money.

The request to approve the millage comes with a couple of caveats, though. Inkster officials said that they want to host a vision

session to get feedback from residents about what they'd like to see from the parks and recreation and senior services departments. We think that's a good idea, because it allows the community a chance to take ownership in a positive way.

They've also indicated that, if this millage is approved, it will help other city departments, too because it would free up money from the general fund. Residents should hold them to that, as well.

The services supported by the proposed dedicated millage are vital to the quality of life in the community. Residents who don't want to see those services decrease but rather, would have them improved, should vote yes on the parks and recreation operation millage.

Teacher, teacher: In an interview, the Romulus schools superintendent gave an interesting response when I asked him if educators are taking too much of the brunt of state funding cuts and rude remarks from policymakers about the services they provide.

Specifically, I asked him if the school systems are responsible for jobs leaving the state because they don't have enough skills to make it in today's market. He said, "In the 1990s, things were on fire (economically) here in Michigan. And I don't ever remember – not one – anyone from Lansing or anywhere else thanking us for the good job we did."

He has a point.

Economy

FROM PAGE 4

sionals from the fields of engineering, social work, marketing, health care, and real estate – all of whom gathered to let high school students in on some career advice. I spoke about journalism, of course.

The students were talkative at times, but I'm happy to report that many had intelligent questions about the role of the media in society, and in the city. The other professionals I spoke with had similar experiences, which is a good thing.

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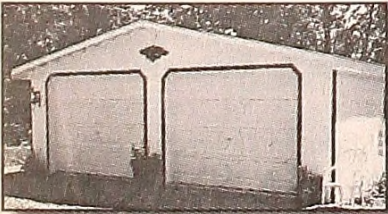
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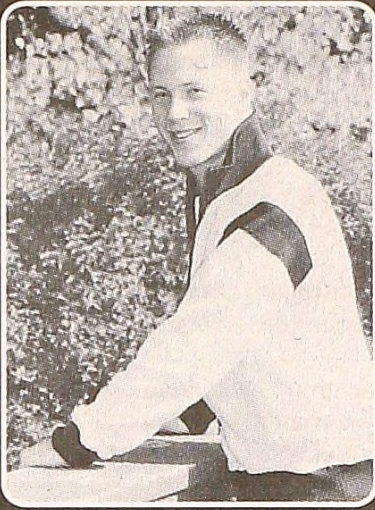
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Arts council plans exhibition and dessert gala

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Once again the Belleville Area Council for the Arts and Belleville High School will combine art and sweets for their annual scholarship art show and dessert gala.

The dessert gala, with confections provided by area restaurants, will take place from 8-10 p.m. on April 29. The art show is scheduled for 10-5 p.m. on April 29 and 30. The show is a long-established program that gets the community together to support the arts and students of the arts, according to Phil Miller, president of the arts council.

“We’re an organization about promoting art education and culture,” he said. “We want graduates of Belleville to know they can go on and have a career in the arts. That’s what we want to show the students.”

Working together with the Van Buren Public School District and the St. Anthony’s Academy, the arts group started the program to celebrate and inspire young artists and recognize them with honors and scholarships.

“The scholarship art show has become a traditional element during the school year by recognizing art students for outstanding creativity,” said Mary Strobe, member of the arts council.

“We’re helping to contribute to the scholarship fund and the overall arts council, which provides additional benefits to the community,” said Miller.

Both events will take place at the Belleville High School food service center and will fund a \$1,000 scholarship for a for a high school senior with the best portfolio of three or more works. A \$500 savings bond will also be presented to the best of show winner, as

”

These are people who have gone and done something in the arts and want to give back to the art program they came out of.

Phil Miller

well as awards for first, second, third place and two honorable mentions. Merit ribbons will be given to all grades levels and the top two places of each grade will also receive a complimentary student membership to the arts council in addition to their ribbon.

“With the membership we hope to encourage the families to participate, too,” said Miller. “It’s for people who want to support the arts, and although they’re not voting members, they can still participate.”

Kathy Murphy, an art educator

at the high school, said the show is a great opportunity for students grades kindergarten through 12 to display their artwork.

“It shows how good they’ve done and gives them exposure just like it would with any other talent,” she said. “It’s like the world series of art to them.”

According to Murphy, the annual event attracts more than 900 entries from students, who also have the opportunity to sell their work at the show.

New this year, Belleville High School alumnae who are also art

professionals will do the formal judging.

“These are people who have gone and done something in the arts and want to give back to the art program they came out of,” said Miller.

The arts council also invites celebrity judges from the media, government and area businesses, as well as the Belleville Community Band to perform during the dessert gala.

Tickets for the gala are \$20 and can be purchased at: the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Garden Fantasy, Blossoms Flowers or at the door. Discount tickets for the gala will also be offered on a limited basis to parents and siblings of show participants at the door. The art show is free.

“We want everyone to go and enjoy,” said Miller. “It’s going to be a different event.”

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD APRIL 3, 2006 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.

Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, Leroy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.

Administrative Officials in Attendance: Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA Treasurer

1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-128

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held March 27, 2006

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-129

3A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to concur with the City of Romulus Planning Commission, Planning Consultant Langworthy Strader LeBlanc and Associates, Inc. letter dated February 9, 2006 and approve PC-2005-053; the rezoning of only the northern lot (.63 acres DP#82-80-017-01-0109-001) from R1-B, Single Family Residential District to C-2, General Business District and the two southern lots (DP #'s 82-80-017-01-0160-304 and 82-80-017-01-0107-301) remain R1-B, Single Family Residential District consistent with the recommendation of the City Planner, Cynthia Lyon AICP, memorandum dated March 6, 2006.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-130

3B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to concur with the Romulus Police Department and approve the request of Petitioners, Northwest Airlines and Wayne County Airport Authority to transfer location of 2005 Class C licensed business (MCL 436.153 1 (10) from Midfield Terminal Concourse B Club, Romulus, MI 48242 to Concourse C Club. Reference #332702.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

3C. No action taken.

4. Motion by Barden, supported by Burcroff to accept the Chairperson’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-131

5A1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to concur with the recommendation of Downtown Development Director Maria Lambert to adopt the fee schedule and the forms to be utilized for rental of the conference and meeting rooms at the Senior Center Facility.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear,

Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-132

5B. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to Adopt Budget Amendment 05/06-29:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund Expenditure				
101-2410-724.74-21	Employment Processing	30,000	7,000	37,000
FUND BALANCE				
101-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	1,565,638	(7,000)	1,558,638

To cover expenses thru 6-30-06 for arbitration, various employment physical/drug tests, service awards, etc.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-133

5C. Motion by Barden, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Public Safety Director Charles Kirby, to award Bid 05/06-30, Ammunition for the City of Romulus Police Department for two (2) years to the only bidder, C.M.P. Distribution.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously

06-134

5D. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to concur with Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Ordinance Director Jean Watson to award Bid 05/05-32, Romulus Ordinance Department, three (3) year weed cutting contract to local bidder, Pritula and Sons, price per square foot of \$.004 during years 1& 2 and \$.005 in year three of contract.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-135

10. Motion by Bragg, supported by Burcroff to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Nicole Channell Crenshaw.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk

City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held April 3, 2006.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk

City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: April 20, 2006

Let the sun shine in

Local company operates 'solely' on solar produced energy

Kevin Hill
Staff Writer

"Unfortunately, in Michigan, we don't have 100 percent sun," said Donna Napolitano, "but that doesn't mean you can't use solar."

Napolitano stood near photovoltaic panels outside her small office on Canton Center Road. The day before, a rainy morning with low, lingering clouds proved her point. The office, Mechanical Energy Systems, ran just fine, thanks partially to stored solar energy.

Inside, the cells made their magic: the lights were on, thanks to new "Solatubes," and the computers were booted up.

In the control room, Napolitano pointed to her hot water heater:

"In this tank, right now, I have 130-degree water," she said. "That's just from the sun. There's no gas or electricity hooked to this tank at all."

Her last energy bill was \$29, but with her new equipment, Napolitano's goal is to get her energy dependence down to zero.

"People get to this point where (energy) is costing them way more than they ever budgeted for their home expense," she said.

It's a state-wide problem, too. Napolitano said the numbers speak for themselves: Michigan imports 75 percent of its natural gas, 96 percent of petroleum and petroleum products, and 100 percent of its coal and uranium.

She said it's a big drain on the state economy, although homeowners could get some relief if they used the sun: solar energy can generate 75 percent of household water heating, she said, and 30 percent of home heating.

"Sometimes, you just have to fend for yourself," she said. "If I can make it myself, I'd rather do it myself. I'm not going to depend on the government to do it."

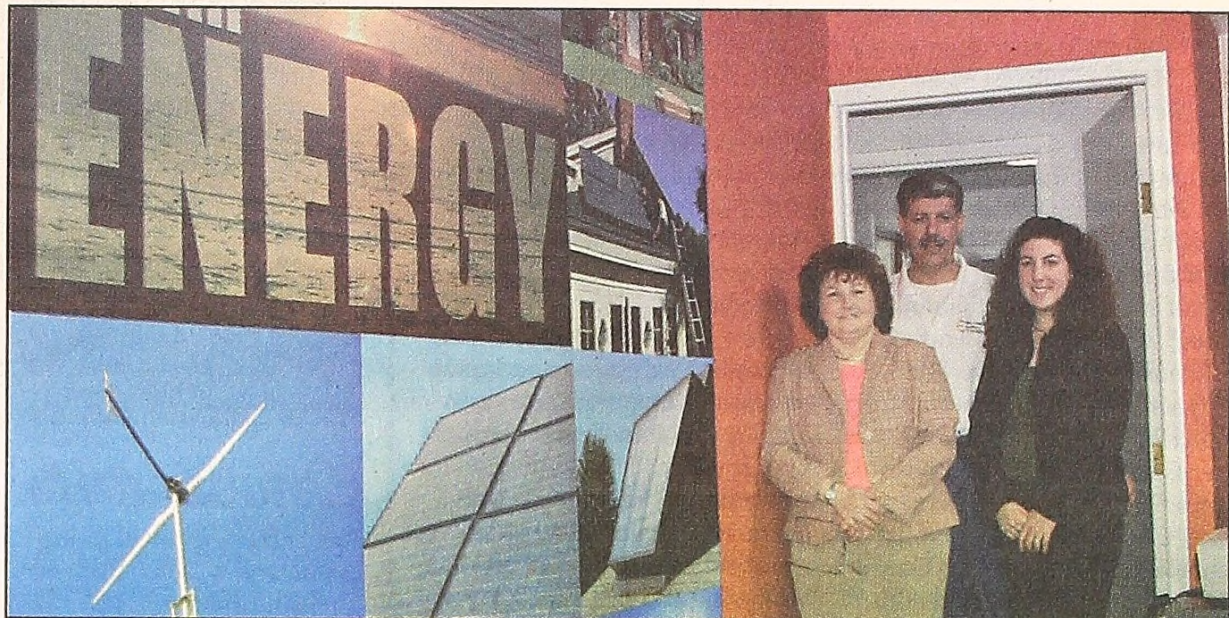
Fortunately, though, the government is helping the solar industry out. Federal tax credits were recently enacted Jan. 1—for the first time since the Napolitanos started Mechanical Energy Systems in the 80s.

Back then, several businesses got into selling solar power systems.

"They were selling the tax credits," said Napolitano. "They weren't really selling the energy."

The Napolitanos were able to get their own equipment when the credits were discontinued and everyone started getting out of the industry.

Today, the family—daughter,



Donna Napolitano (left) and her husband Joe have sold solar technology for 21 years in Canton Township. Their daughter, Maria VonBuskirk has joined the family business, too.

Maria VonBuskirk, works for the company, too—has updated the technology at their Canton Center location, where they have been for the last 17 years, right across the street from the Canton High School soccer fields. They recently installed a new wind turbine on the roof, to help on those cloudy and windy days.

Mechanical Energy Systems is completely outfitted with the equipment the Napolitanos sell to their clients. Napolitano said people can often start small, though, just saving money on

something like a heater for a swimming pool.

"That's a huge business," she said. "It costs a fortune to heat a pool, but we can do the whole thing with solar panels."

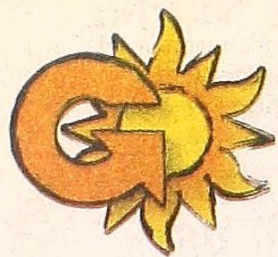
They are hosting an Earth Day open house this Saturday, to let people see the equipment for themselves. They'll be encouraging the tax credits and the idea of net-metering—recently approved state policy that allows homeowners and businesses that generate their own power to get retail credits for the energy they

produce and don't use.

The ultimate point, she said, was to be less wasteful, help protect the environment—and of course, save some money.

"If you have light, you have energy," she added. "You just have to figure out how to capture it."

The open house takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 22. Mechanical Energy Systems is located at 8130 Canton Center Road in Canton Township. For more information go to <http://www.by-solar.com>.



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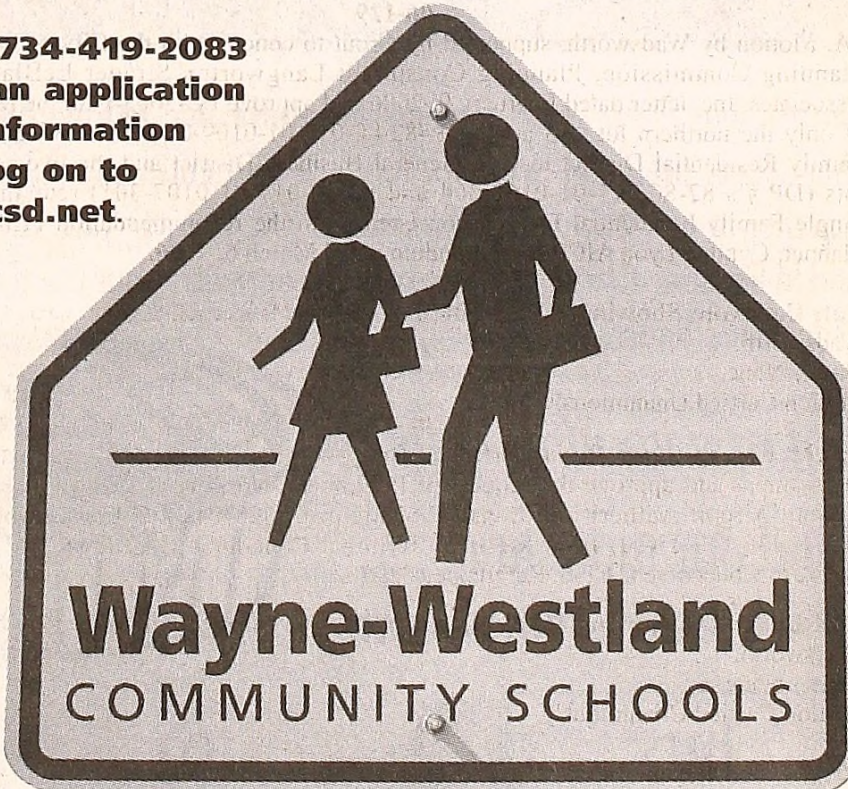


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Group donates used computers to school

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The North Middle School special needs program has 18 new computers in their lab, thanks to Dr. Jim Payne and his non-profit organization—JDS Computer Donations.

"It makes us feel good to do this," said Payne. "People are extremely appreciative."

Last year the organization donated more than 60 computers to Belleville High School, according to Payne. This year, he said that the goal is to give more computers to the Fred C. Fischer Library, now that the recent donation to the middle school is complete.

"In total, we've donated more than 100 computers to the Van Buren Public School District over the years," he said.

Since 2003, JDS Computer Donations has re-built and repaired computers to donate to area schools and organizations throughout Michigan, as well as their newest adventure: laptop computer donations for American soldiers.

Volunteer technicians repair the donated computers.

"We get a lot of requests from people all over who don't realize

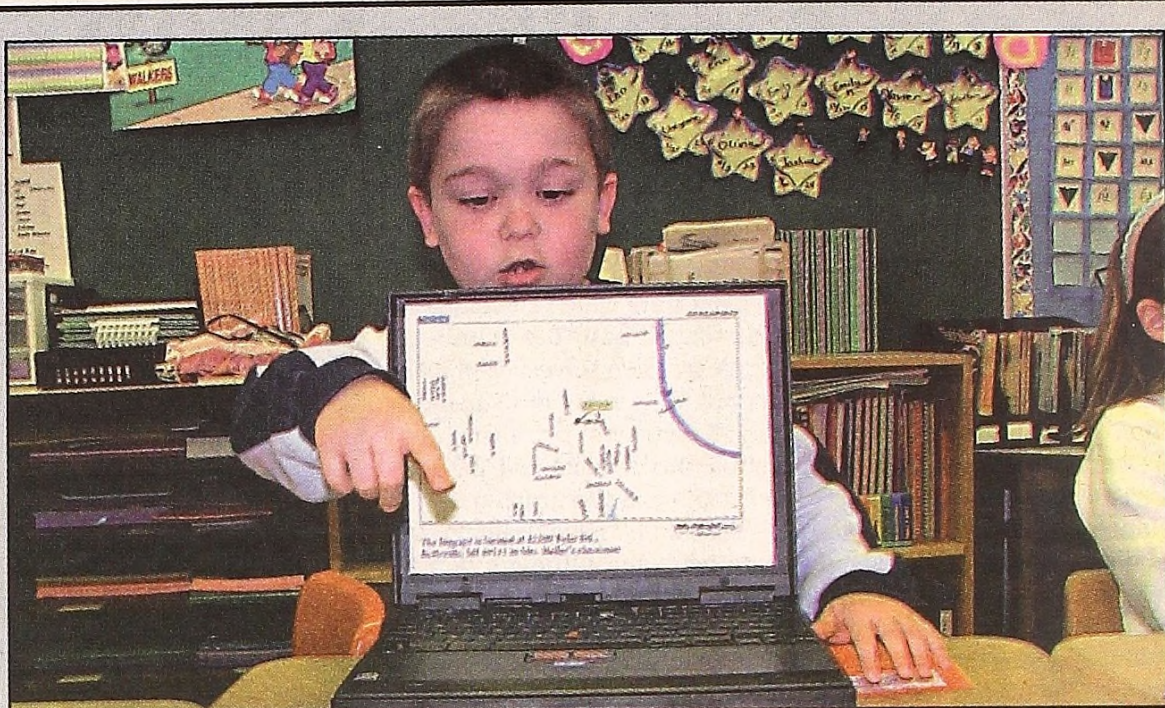
we're a 'mom and pop' organization," said Payne. "So far, we've sent 250 laptops to Iraq, which helps the facility there with more than 35,000 American troops, and we've also helped about 24,000 students to have Internet access who have not had it before. We are making a difference."

The group is always seeking donations of desktop and laptop computers, monitors, laser printers, scanners and other computer hardware.

Donations of at least 1 gigahertz Pentium 3 processors or any Pentium 4, along with at least Pentium 2 233 megahertz laptop computers can be donated by contacting the organization at JDS_Computers@hotmail.com.

Computers do not have to work, but all monitors donated must work because of cost issues. All donations are tax deductible and will benefit schools throughout Michigan and soldiers overseas, said Payne.

"I get asked a million times why I do this and I've been criticized a lot for doing this, but the thing is, it makes us feel good," he said. "I know I can do this and help a lot of people and I have no reason to stop."



Genius at work

The second graders of the Van Buren Public Schools Gifted and Talented program recently hosted their Invention Convention at Tyler Elementary School. The inventions could be anything the student wanted to create that would make life in the 21st century easier. The devices did not have to work but could be prototypes. After creating their inventions, the students had to submit a detailed report that explained what the invention was, how it made life easier and what source of energy it used. More than 25 students participated this year, including Nicholas Ray, who made a Luggage Locator; Courtney Schweers, who created a Pop-Up Bed Maker; Donovan Jamison, who invented a Robo Cook that not only cooks the meal, but delivers it to the table; Cheyenne Sampson, who made a robot Automatic Pooper Scooper that every pet owner should have and Nicole Pearce, who created an Automatic Cat Feeder.

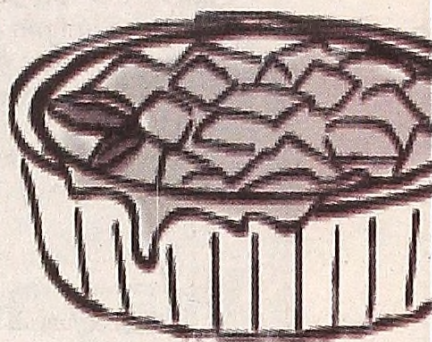


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SPORTS

Lady 'Cats off to 4-0 start, ready for rest of season

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Lady Wildcats' softball team finally has the experience they've been missing for the last 3 years and is now ready to leave a mark on the diamond.

This is the first year that the school has had a senior class and the first time the team can relish the experience other teams in the Western Lakes Activity Association (WLAA) that have a longer history enjoy.

After three years with no more than a junior on the team, the Cats' playing field is level.

With four games played, Plymouth is undefeated (3-0 overall and 1-0 in division play)—just where Coach Val Canfield wants to be.

"I'm very pleased with how strong we seem," she said. "Right now we are solid in the areas that we need to be to win games."

Those areas would be hitting, defense and pitching.

The Lady Cats are averaging about 10 hits per game. They just routed Walled Lake Central 15-2 on 17 hits in five innings last Wednesday, the team's last game before Spring Break.

Junior catcher Madison Dresser led the attack, going 4-for-4 with two doubles and 6 RBIs. Junior shortstop Kim Klonowski was 2-for-3 with a double and 2 RBIs. Although the team is grateful for its seniors, they have younger

*Offense has become contagious.
Everybody is hitting the ball.
Every batter tries to outdo the other.*

players stepping up, too. Freshman second-baser Beth Heldemeyer had three hits and freshman Erin Rhodes, a backup infielder, had two hits.

"Offense has become contagious," Canfield said. "Everybody is hitting the ball. Every batter tries to outdo the other."

On defense they just went two straight games without committing an error including the Central game and a 4-0 shutout against Walled Lake Western on Monday, April 10. As a team, the Wildcats have only allowed five total runs in the four victories this season.

Junior Claire Ostrowski has been stellar from the circle. She pitched a three-hitter against Central and a no-hitter against Western. She also struck out six batters with only two walks in the five frames against Central.

"She's helped limit teams' from scoring on us," Canfield said. "That helps to maintain consistency."

A solid mix of players rounds out the remaining roster spots. Junior Melissa Butzow anchors first while senior Lauren Stemberger holds down third. Seniors Daniel

Bondy and Rachel Juco are out in center and left fields respectively. Three players are still battling it out for right field. Senior Erin Ondusky, sophomore Amy Bondy and freshman Jill Brennan are all sharing time at the position.

"We're returning a full squad and it's the first year with seniors," Canfield said. "I've really seen a difference with leadership this year. There's a lot of communication on the field, which is something that we lacked last year. They're like little chatterboxes out there—it's inspiring to hear."

The team has three freshmen to go with the one sophomore, four juniors and four seniors. Canfield feels the younger players bring something to the team they didn't have before.

"The younger players have definitely brought depth to the team," she said.

Canfield is taking the team to South Carolina during the break to help the team bond and build chemistry. Last year the team went to Florida and it seemed to work as the Wildcats went on to win the 2005 Division 1 District 29 Championship.

Canfield hopes to repeat the success.

"All of our cylinders are working," she said. "Everything is moving in the right direction. It will be exciting to see the next several games."

When the team returns from South Carolina they will host Wayne Memorial at 4 p.m. on Monday, April 24.



Chiefs slay Dragons

Canton defeated the Swartz Creek Dragons, 5-3 and 3-1, in a doubleheader last week. The Chiefs remained undefeated, 6-0, with the victories. Chris Woodstra had two hits and two steals and Jon Puskar was 2-for-4 in Game 1. Justin Latin went 2-for-4 with a triple and an RBI and Tarik Khasawneh was 2-for-3, including a double and two RBIs in Game 2 for Canton. Caleb Lerner (above) pitched the opening game. Jon Puskar (left) scoops up a low throw, just missing the tag at third. Last Monday, Canton defeated Wayne Memorial, 7-6. Shawn Little was the winning pitcher and went 2-for-3 with a triple and an RBI. Blaine Paden was 3-for-3 with two doubles and Khasawneh went 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Drew Kaletto went 2-for-4 with two doubles and Justin Collop went 2-for-3 for Wayne.



Northville soccer thwarts Stevenson

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Northville soccer went into Spring Break on a good note, defeating a pretty noble Livonia Stevenson team, 5-2, last Wednesday.

Stevenson only had two shots on net in the first half and both of them went in to give the Spartans a 2-1 lead at the intermission.

Stevenson scored first about the two minutes into the first half. A Northville defender and the goalie had a miscommunication that led to a 1-0 deficit.

Northville senior Lauren Hill evened things up at about the 16:00 mark when she accepted a pass from Vanessa Bailey and blasted it in from about 10 yards out, according to Northville Coach Ron Meteyer. However, with about 15 minutes remaining in the half, Stevenson knocked in their second goal for a 2-1 advantage.

The last minutes remained scoreless.

After the break it was a different game. Northville scored four unanswered goals in the second half.

It didn't take long for the Lady Mustangs to get the ball rolling, either. Just 46 seconds in, Sophomore Theresa Yankovich passed the ball to Bailey who popped it in for the tying goal.

About five minutes later, Bailey fought off two defenders but managed to get the ball to Yankovich who headed it in to give the 'Stangs their first lead of the game, 3-2.

Then sophomore Sarah Stern scored on the left side with a left-legged boot off a pass from Hill.

The goal made it a 4-2 game. Freshman Karen Mayhall finished off the scoring with what Meteyer said was her best shot all year. The kick was a blast from about 25 yards out with her left foot. Hill assisted again on the mark.

The team was without junior star Danielle Toney, who was playing a tournament with her national team.

So far Meteyer is impressed with the young talent on the team. His roster consists of six sophomores and five freshmen.

"These young players were drafted to the varsity squad proving they could go head-to-head with the varsity players during tryouts," he said. "All the freshmen played well against Stevenson."

While Yankovich and Mayhall scored goals, freshmen Camille Junca filled in for senior Lindsey Blair and Kelsey Baskins earned a starting position, out right. The other two freshmen, Kayla Hogan and Christine Colleran are getting significant playing time, too.

"These young players are going to be good," Meteyer said. "We knew Yankovich was going to be good and she has been. I'm real pleased with all of the young players. They're not just benchwarmers filling in—they're contributing."

He also feels that the Stevenson win was important, coming two games after a tough loss to Novi.

"Stevenson couldn't keep up with our speed and athleticism," Meteyer said. "I think this win was a nice statement to the rest of the league."

SPORTS



Guelph's Ryan McDonald remained solid in net to help the Storm defeat the Whalers, 4-3, in Game 6 of the Western Conference semifinals, ousting the Whalers from the playoffs. Above: James Neal fights for position in front of McDonald in Game 5 at Compuware on Friday night.

Storm sinks Whalers, 4-3

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers avoided a sweep last week by defeating the Guelph Storm in two games but the eventually fell, 4-3, in the Game 6 they forced on Saturday night.

More than 2,800 fans at the Guelph Sports and Entertainment Centre witnessed a playoff show to match all others.

This one came down to the wire.

The game was tied, 3-3, with 3:02 remaining in regulation when Guelph's Mike McLean, from the left hash mark, put this shot past Plymouth goalie Justin Peters—just two seconds after Plymouth successfully killed off a two-man Guelph power play.

That put an end to the Whalers play-off run.

The rest of the game was just as exciting.

Plymouth got things rolling when Tom Sestito put the Whalers on the board at the 1:34 mark of the first period. While linemates Gino Pisellini and Andrew Fournier worked the puck beneath the Guelph goal line, Sestito secured a spot in front of the Guelph goal. Fournier found him and Sestito guided the puck past Guelph goaltender Ryan MacDonald.

It didn't take long for the Storm to counter attack.

Guelph tied the game, 1-1, at 3:40 of the period when Kelsey Wilson scored from the left wing past Peters. The rest

of the period would remain as is with a 1-1 score.

Plymouth got things moving again early in the second frame. The Whalers took the lead again, 2-1, at 4:07 of the session when Boll skated hard down the left into the Guelph zone and scored from the left wing goal line with a shot that ricocheted off MacDonald and into the net.

The lead lasted until 15:05 when Rafael Rotter tied the game, 2-2, on a Guelph power play.

Guelph took their first lead of the game at 5:15 of the third period when Ryan Callahan was credited with a goal.

This time the Storm's lead didn't last long. About 20 seconds later, Plymouth's John Armstrong came right back to tie the game at 3-3. Jared Boll made a pass from behind the Guelph net where Armstrong one-timed it from the right hash mark by MacDonald.

Then the controversial call.

The Whalers appeared to take a 4-3 lead at 6:19 of the third when Evan Brophey carried the puck over the Guelph line and passed to James Neal on the right wing. Plymouth put the puck in the net on a scramble in front of the Guelph goal, but referees Pat Smola and Ryan Carroll waved it off and sent Neal to the box for goaltender interference.

That set the stage for the McLean's game-winner.

See *Whalers*, page 11

Detroit Pros find new home in Canton

A new 'planet' will soon have new life, too.

The Detroit Pros minor league professional basketball team will make The Basketball Planet sports facility their new home for the 2006 season.

Located in Canton Township, the upscale 47,600-square-foot-facility features an NBA regulation court, four NCAA sized courts, two training courts, and a toddler court for future Pros. The Basketball Planet also offers a luxury suite and eatery for guest and members of the club.

The Detroit Pros compete in the International Basketball League, which features other Michigan-based organizations in Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Holland, and Macomb County. The 25 teams in the league are located in communities primarily on the west and east coasts and are loaded with talented players with years of experience.

The Basketball Planet will serve as the

official home office, practice facility, and game venue for the Pros. The Pros will continue to host games at other venues on occasion but The Basketball Planet will be the official home of the international players.

"It was a perfect fit," said Pro's owner Darryl Greene. "They're promoting basketball and I'm promoting the team. Basketball Planet has a lot to offer as far as facility wise—it's just a great and comfortable place to run a professional league from. Plus, the people are great. It's really nice environment to be in."

The Detroit Pros free agent camp will take place from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, April 29 and Sunday April 30 at facility, which is located at 7171 North Haggerty Road in Canton, MI 48187.

To register for the camp and additional information on the Detroit Pros and The Basketball Planet, call (734) 656-0091 or (313) 971-1855.

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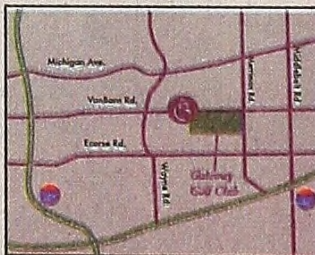


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SPORTS

Whalers

FROM PAGE 10

Plymouth pulled Peters with 1:08 remaining and called a time-out with 4.9 seconds left with a faceoff in the Guelph zone. Boll had the last shot but MacDonald made the save.

The victory lifted the Storm past Plymouth in the best-of-seven series, 4-2. Guelph will move on to the Western Conference final series against the London Knights, who eliminated Owen Sound in six games Saturday night with a 5-2 victory over the Attack.

Plymouth 4, Guelph 3

The Whalers were on the verge of extinction—down 3-0 in the best-of-seven series—when they made a comeback in the in a most dramatic fashion.

In Game 4, Plymouth was down 3-1 in the second period when they pulled out a stunner, a 4-3 triumph, on Guelph's ice in overtime.

The clincher was Dan Collins' third goal of the game at 10:55 of overtime that gave the Plymouth Whalers the win.

James Neal scored the other Plymouth goal, his team-leading sixth of the playoffs. Plymouth captain John Vigilante added three assists. Guelph received goals from Callahan, D'Agostini and Rotter.

Guelph led, 2-0, late in the second period when Neal started the Whaler comeback. He beat MacDonald in tight with a backhand shot at 19:05 of the second period.

Rotter restored Guelph's two-goal lead, 3-1, at 1:30 of the third period. However, the Whaler power play went to work to tie the game. Both goals (8:05 and 15:11 respectively) were by Collins



Plymouth captain John Vigilante battles for the puck in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals at home Friday night. Plymouth won the game, 5-2.

with hard shots from the left wing.

In overtime, both teams had a chance to win. Collins hit the goal post about five minutes into the extra session. The game-winner came when Plymouth defenseman Wes Cunningham found Collins on the left wing at the Guelph blue line. Collins skated to the left face-off dot and beat MacDonald.

Guelph 2, Plymouth 5

Plymouth rode the momentum of the overtime, come-from-behind, on-the-road win in Game 4 right into Game 5.

Neal had a hat trick and Fournier and Evan Brophrey scored single goals as the Plymouth Whalers built a 5-0 lead after two periods of play and defeated the Guelph Storm, 5-2 at the Compuware Sports Arena.

D'Agostini and Jason Pitton scored third period goals for Guelph.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
NOTICE OF ELECTION - MAY 2, 2006
VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS &
LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653 (a), notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the Charter Township of Van Buren that Van Buren Public Schools & Lincoln Consolidated Schools Election will be held TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006.

Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST.
Polling place locations for Van Buren Township:

Precinct #1	Fire Station #1	130 4th St.
Precinct #2	Fire Station #2	45581 Ecorse Rd.
Precinct #3	Tyler School	42200 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #4	Belleville High Auditorium	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #5	South Middle School	45201 Owen St.
Precinct #6	Belleville High Auditorium	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #7	Van Buren Township Hall	46425 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #8	North Middle School	47097 McBride
Precinct #9	Haggerty School	13770 Haggerty Rd

Ballot Language Van Buren Public School:
Member of the Board of Education Four (4) year term expiring June 30, 2010.
Vote for not more than two (2)
David M. Peer
Victor A. Hogan

Ballot Language Lincoln Consolidated School:
Member of the Board of Education Four (4) year term expiring June 30, 2010.
Vote for not more than one (1)
Gregory Gurka

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI 48111, 734-699-8909. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the May 2, 2006 Election for Van Buren Public School & Lincoln Consolidated School is Saturday, April 29, 2006 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Township Clerk's Office.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: April 20, 2006

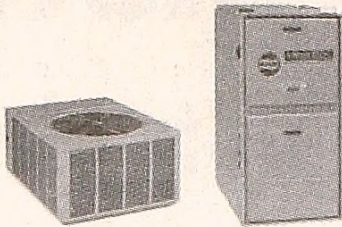
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168 Section 798, a Public Hearing will be conducted on Thursday April 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan for the purpose of certifying the program to be used in the counting device which will be utilized to process voter ballots in the Van Buren Public Schools and Lincoln Consolidated Schools Election to be held TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006.

Said meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend.

The Charter Township of Van Buren will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734.699.8909.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: April 20, 2006

CITY OF ROMULUS, MICHIGAN
NOTICE TO ELECTORS

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Annual School Election will be held in the Romulus Community School District, County of Wayne, State of Michigan on Tuesday, May 2, 2006 from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., Prevailing Eastern Standard Time.

The following vacancies for members of the Board of Education will be voted upon, in the Romulus Community School District:

TWO (2) FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS

Each person voting on the above must be:

- (a) A citizen of the United States of America.
- (b) A registered elector of the Romulus Community School District.
- (c) Eighteen (18) years of age or older.

The polling places will be open for voting from 7:00 a.m., to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Precinct	Location
1	Wick School, 36900 Wick Road, Romulus, Michigan
2	Halecreek School, 16200 Harrison Road, Romulus, Michigan
3	Romulus Elementary School, 32200 Beverly Road, Romulus, Michigan
4	Merriman School, 15303 Merriman Road, Romulus, Michigan
5	Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan
7	Mt. Pleasant School, 39000 Superior, Romulus, Michigan
8	Romulus Elementary School, 32200 Beverly Road, Romulus, Michigan
9	Fire Station #2, 7221 Middlebelt, Romulus, Michigan
10	Cory School, 35200 Smith Road, Romulus, Michigan
11	Mt. Pleasant School, 39000 Superior, Romulus, Michigan
12	Merriman School, 15303 Merriman, Romulus, Michigan
13	Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan
14	Wick School, 36900 Wick Road, Romulus, Michigan
15	Fire Station #2, 7221 Middlebelt, Romulus, Michigan
16	Halecreek School, 16200 Harrison Road, Romulus, Michigan
17	Cory School, 35200 Smith Road, Romulus, Michigan
18	Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan

Public notice is hereby given by the Romulus City Clerk in accordance with Section 380.1002 of the Michigan Election Law, as amended.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: April 20, 2006

THE SCENE

Scary Movie 4 is a silly, guilty pleasure

Watching *Scary Movie 4* is like flipping through the pages of MAD Magazine—it's entertaining but not something most adults would admit to enjoying.

As much as it pains me to publicly acknowledge it, however, *Scary Movie 4* was a good film—quick, witty, and to the point.

A blatant spoof on all aspects of popular culture—from Shaquille O'Neal and Tom Cruise to Dr. Phil and Oprah—the film ruthlessly searches out the 'weak' spot in the armor that protects them from the public. The chink in their image is then exploited in dark and often obnoxious fashion—such as Dr. Phil falling for reverse psychology—that somehow manages to remain funny.

More than anything else, though, the film ridicules the films that have come before it. Anything and everything that has crossed the silver screen during the past few years is fair game, including movies like *The Village*, *War of the Worlds*, *The Grudge*, and—big surprise here—*Brokeback Mountain*.

The film has a plot—theoretically. The heroine, Cindy (Anna Faris), is a home healthcare professional who has just moved into a spooky old home to care for a catatonic woman. Cindy—who is, in horror film tradition, also pretty, blonde, and vacant—soon realizes that they're not alone in the house. It is also home to the ghost of a young boy.

Next door lives the divorced father of two. Tom (Craig Bierko) is an 'Average Joe' sort of guy who won't be winning any Father of the Year awards. The moment he sees Cindy, he is drawn to her.

Unfortunately, giant alien Tri-Pods attack the earth and do their best to exterminate humanity. The loving—or maybe lusty—couple is separated as Cindy tries to solve the secret of the ghost boy's murder and Tom tries to prevent his kids and himself from being vaporized.

The plot really isn't important, though. Its primary purpose is to yank audience members from one ludicrous situation to the next. The real fun is trying to figure out why a scene looks familiar—and to figure out what person, event, or activity that is seemingly above reproach will be ridiculed next. Most of the virtually sacrosanct topics the film touches on are fairly original, although it does go for cheap laughs occasionally (oh joy, more Viagra jokes.)

The film also includes several superb actors in cameo roles. Among those to pop up out of nowhere are Charlie Sheen, Carmen Electra, Molly Shannon, Bill Pullman, and John Reardon, but Leslie Nielsen as the bumbling,

dim-witted President of the United States was my personal favorite. The film was directed by David Zucker (*Ruthless People*, *Airplane!*).

Scary Movie 4 is rated PG-13 because of the prevalence of crude and sexual humor and because of some comedic violence. Little, if any, realistic gore or violent circumstances ever appear.

Tradition states that brevity is the soul of wit and this film is both. Although it is witty, the film lasts for little more than an hour—only about 80 minutes including previews.

Reviewed By
Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer



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PUBLIC NOTICE OF WILLOW RUN AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR RUNWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The Wayne County Airport Authority is preparing
an Environmental Assessment associated with
the Runway Safety Area Improvements Project,
Phase 3. The assessment was prepared in part to
address wetland and flood plain impacts resulting
for the upgrading of the runway safety areas
adjacent to runways 5R, 5L, and 9R. Copies of
the Environment Assessment will be available at
the Ypsilanti District Library, and the Fred Fischer
Public Library in Belleville, MI. A copy will also be
available for public review at the hearing. The
hearing will be held Wednesday, May 17, 2006
from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Marriott Ann
Arbor Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest, 1275 S. Huron
Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Airport officials and
consultants will present the Environmental
Assessment and answer questions.

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106. Houses For Sale

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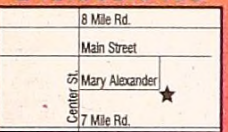
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Was.....\$34,380

A-Plan Price

\$22,640⁶⁰*

A-Plan
24 Month Lease/
10,500 mi.

Stock #62637

Dark stone clearcoat, flint 40/20/40 prem. cloth, 5.4L EFI V-8 eng., electronic 4-spd. auto. O/D, electronic shift-on-fly, sliding rear window, trailer tow pkg., keyless entry key pad, 17" Mach alum. w/paint accents.

Sign & Drive	\$211³¹**	
Zero Down	\$192⁰⁵**	Total Due At Signing: \$466.57
\$1000 Down	\$150⁰⁸**	Total Due At Signing: \$1482.08

2006 Mustang Coupe

Was.....\$23,660

A-Plan Price \$19,646²⁰*

Stock #61320

A Plan 24 Month Lease Renewal 10,500 mi. per year



Tungsten grey, dark charcoal cloth, AM/FM/6-CD in dash, power driver's seat, manual air, rear window defroster, 5-speed automatic, floor mats, rear decklid spoiler, anti-lock brakes, traction control, 17" premium painted cast alum., wheel locking kit.

SIGN & DRIVE	\$287⁹³*	per mo.
ZERO DOWN	\$269⁵³*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$428.70	
1000 DOWN	\$225⁹⁵*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$1442.51	

2006 Explorer Eddie Bauer 4 Dr.

Was.....\$31,105 **Stock #61531**

A-Plan Price \$22,559³⁵*

A Plan 24 Month Lease Renewal 10,500 mi. per year



Oxford white, Pueblo Gold accent paint, camel leather/suede buckets, running boards, convenience group, CFC free Air, floor mats, V-6 engine, 5-speed auto. O/D trans., adj. pedals, cargo area cover, roof rail cross bars.

SIGN & DRIVE	\$228⁷¹*	per mo.
ZERO DOWN	\$204⁸³*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$570.12	
1000 DOWN	\$162²⁶*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$1585.00	

2006 Escape XLT FWD

Was.....\$25,335

A-Plan Price \$18,375³⁶*

Stock #62225

A Plan 24 Month Lease Renewal 10,500 mi. per year



Black clearcoat, med. dark flint cloth bucket, power 6-way driver seat, floor mats, 4-spd. auto. O/D trans. speed control, air, perimeter alarm, privacy glass, power moonroof w/shade, rear cargo storage bin w/cover, audph/6-cd in dash.

SIGN & DRIVE	\$260⁴⁵*	per mo.
ZERO DOWN	\$241³⁵*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$458.83	
1000 DOWN	\$199⁰⁸*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$1474.02	

2006 500 FWD SEL

Was.....\$25,925

A-Plan Price \$22,365⁶⁰*

Stock #62480

A Plan 24 Month Lease Renewal 10,500 mi. per year



Dark blue pearl, shale leather seating, AM/FM/CDx6 MP3 radio, dual auto A/C, 17" 7-sp aluminum w/lug nuts, fog lamps, message center, steering wheel audio controls, 6-speed trans., V-6 engine, storage compartment in armrest, leather seating.

SIGN & DRIVE	\$277¹¹*	per mo.
ZERO DOWN	\$258²⁹*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$446.79	
1000 DOWN	\$215⁵¹*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$1461.44	

2006 Fusion SE

Was.....\$19,800

A-Plan Price \$15,273⁶⁰*

Stock #62124

A Plan 24 Month Lease Renewal 10,500 mi. per year



Merlot clearcoat, dark charcoal cloth bucket, 5-speed auto. transmission, SE sport pkg., AM/FM/MP3 6-CD player w/clock, aluminum wheels, fog lamps.

SIGN & DRIVE	\$224⁴⁹*	per mo.
ZERO DOWN	\$206⁰¹*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$421.37	
1000 DOWN	\$161⁶⁰*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$1434.30	

2006 Focus ZX4 SES

Was.....\$17,885

A-Plan Price \$11,822³⁶*

Stock #62591

A Plan 24 Month Lease Renewal 10,500 mi. per year



Liquid grey clearcoat, charcoal/light flint cloth, rear spoiler, power side windows, convenience group, integrated fog lamps, CFC-free air, 16" alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, side impact air bags, 50 state emissions.

SIGN & DRIVE	\$187⁷⁰*	per mo.
ZERO DOWN	\$172⁷⁷*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$356.14	
1000 DOWN	\$130¹⁰*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$1370.91	

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2007 Sport Trac XLT

Mineral gray clearcoat, light stone cloth bucket, 16" cast aluminum wheels, AM/FM/CD/MP3, 4.0L SOHC V-6, 5-speed auto., trans., automatic headlights, entry keypad, auto dimming rear view mirror, hard tonneau cover, leather wrapped steering wheel.

Stock #70009

Was.....\$25,860

A-Plan Price \$22,698⁶⁰*

A Plan 24 Month Lease Renewal - 10,500 mi. per year

SIGN & DRIVE	\$258⁴⁴*	per mo.
ZERO DOWN	\$241⁶³*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$399.13	
1000 DOWN	\$198⁸⁵*	per mo.
	Amount Due at Signing: \$1413.78	

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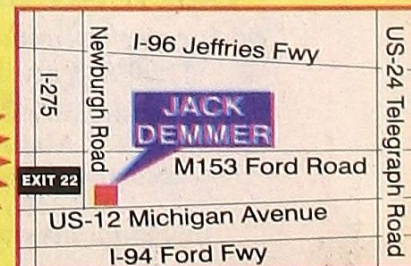
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